

## CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made, or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

## Signs of Water Coming.

MR. EDITOR: This village has been flooded lately with circulars telling us all about the new water works we are going to have. The youth who has been let loose from the Government house to instruct us poor pagans of "darkest Hilo" as to what we don't know about water has arrived. He brings with him a book big enough to hold the names of every man, woman, and child on the islands. Why all this unnecessary expense when you take into consideration that you can count on your fingers all those who want the pipes into their houses? Still, if it's the intention of the Government to lay the pipes, why don't they make a start? Give the natives and Portuguese a chance to work, fire out all the old stuffs and barnacles that are hanging on and drawing salaries. Make a start. Or are we to have the volcano road business repeated? Perhaps as Col. Sellers says, "there's millions in it." Yours truly  
HAWAII.  
Hilo, Hawaii, Feb. 26, 1891.

## The Thermometer on Wednesday Morning.

MR. EDITOR: The following readings of a thermometer this morning at my house in Kulaokahua, are so phenomenal that I should like to inquire if they are supported by any other observations. The thermometer is an ordinary one, and may therefore not be absolutely accurate; it has, however, been reasonably so, and has in the same position never before indicated a temperature below 54 degs. Fahrenheit; it is placed about eight feet from the ground, under cover vertically, with a north-westerly aspect.

At 5 o'clock this morning the reading was 48 degs.; at 6:30, 47 degs.; 7:00, 51 degs.; 7:15, 54 degs.; 7:30, 59 degs. Although there was much dew in the atmosphere last night, there was no apparent condensation upon the instrument, as has more than once this winter been the case; and the air seemed very still. I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
THOMAS RAIN WALKER.

[NOTE.—Mr. Wells Peterson (Beretania street) reports his thermometer (outdoors) at 6:30 o'clock, 48 degs.; Mr. H. M. Whitney (King street) reports his thermometer (indoors) at 6 o'clock, 50 degs., and at 7 o'clock 56 degs.

## Christians, Crime and Prohibition.

MR. EDITOR: How strange, unaccountably strange it is, that a community made up largely of professed Christians and others who claim to be moral models, should consent to license the dram shop, or in any way encourage the rum beverage traffic, even by silence, knowing, as they do, that intoxicants cause more than one half of all crimes committed in rum-licensed countries; and they further know that the licensed rum traffic is the egg from which these crimes are hatched.

As an example, Atlanta arrests an average of forty law-breakers per day, except on election days when the saloons were closed, then only eight were arrested. This looks as though the saloons should be closed every day of the year. Prohibition says close them. But it appears that Christians and temperance people won't consent to do that, or it would be done.

What have these Christians and temperance people to do with sustaining rum shops and crime? Just this, my friends: Their votes and influence exerted against the rum traffic, would inaugurate prohibition in every professed Christian country, and that would prevent more than one-half of all crimes brought before the courts according to the most reliable statistics, and at least one-half of all sin and misery that afflict humanity in all rum-licensed countries.

Can we do anything for the Master's approval that will effect so much good as putting an end to the rum traffic? Can we do so much in any other direction for suffering humanity as to permanently abolish the rumshop? Yet we are told that eight-tenths of all Christians vote for rum license, which means the continuance of the traffic with all its evil effects by means of Christian votes. How strange! unaccountably strange it is, that Christians should be the instruments in Satan's hands to curse civilized man with this ungodly traffic.  
J. M. HOBNER.

## Concerning Thermometers and Cold Weather.

MR. EDITOR: There is probably

more difference in the temperature of different localities than is commonly supposed, even in this equable region. At Oahu College it has been for some time noticed that the thermometer on cool mornings is not as low by one or two degrees (F.) as it is at my house about a thousand feet nearer the sea and thirty feet less elevation. The low ground on the plain lying directly in line with the downflow of cold air from Makiki Valley has a still lower temperature, just as low grounds in Northern countries are always the first sufferers from frost.

On Wednesday morning, March 4, my thermometer, which was "properly placed," indicated 53 deg. as the minimum for the night; at 6 o'clock it was 54 deg., falling at 6:30 to 53 deg. again. At the same time a thermometer two feet from the ground and exposed to the clear sky read 51.5 deg.; while hung for a time in the yard it marked 54 deg. The cold stream or stratum of air clings to the ground, which no doubt went down to 48 deg. in the night, as there was a moderate dew on the ground, which I had not expected, as the dew point the evening before was just 48 deg.

There is no doubt that the night in question was the coldest on record in Honolulu, and the observations of Mr. Walker and others perfectly reliable if thermometers are any ways accurate. As to the Hotel it may feel the stream of cold from Pauoa Valley. The standard height from the ground for purposes of comparison is ten feet. There should always be some screen intervene between the bulb of the thermometer and the clear sky, in whatever direction it may be. I may add that there is a reliable standard thermometer at the Survey Office, lately imported, with which others can be compared, also that any facts in meteorology reported here will be gratefully received, put on record and use made of them.

A curious though rather an extreme example of this law of cold air happened to the writer years ago. Camped on the side of Mauna Kea, at the height of 6,500 feet, but in a hollow, water froze to the thickness of an eighth of an inch or more. Later on, camped on the summit of a crater cone 1,000 feet higher, 34 to 36 deg. was the lowest temperature, while on a peak at over 11,000 feet elevation the thermometer went down to 38 deg. only on the night that the point was occupied, and the bitterest cold camp found on the campaign was in the bottom of a crater which was the only level spot available for pitching a tent.  
CURTIS J. LYONS.

## Tricycles for Policemen.

Attention is being directed in some of the principal cities of the United States to the use of bicycles and tricycles by the police, instead of horses. We find the following communication in the Washington Star:

MR. EDITOR: By mounting the police force on tricycles the efficiency of the service can be more than doubled with a comparatively small outlay. By this means an officer will be able to cover his beat two or three times where he now covers it once and with considerably less fatigue. The tricycle is better suited than the bicycle, as it requires less attention on the part of the rider, and consequently would give the officer better opportunity for making close observation as he passes along the streets. An experimental test by the police department of a few wheels would doubtless give such satisfactory results that they would be generally adopted in a short time. It seems quite remarkable that the smooth streets of this city have so long counted for nothing so far as the police service is concerned.

The wheels would be entirely safe while officers are making arrests, as with the police department stamp upon them no thief would be bold or foolish enough to attempt to steal them. Mounted in this manner the officers would have better control over the fast and reckless driving that takes place in this city, so much to the injury and discomfort of pedestrians. On foot an officer has little chance of overhauling a fast driver, but mounted on a good wheel he can give chase and make arrests. The adoption of the wheel would undoubtedly lead to a more effective police service in every respect.  
G. F. J.

## S. S. Farallone.

The steamer Farallone, Captain Bonifield in command, sailed from San Francisco recently for San Jose de Guatemala. The Farallone was chartered by Geo. W. Maxon, H. C. Ackley and C. R. Miles of Sacramento, who, with their wives and families, are going on a pleasure trip to South America. It is their intention to make the trip profitable as well, and to this end the steamer was loaded with young horses and cattle, hogs and other domestic animals, for which there is a great demand in Guatemala.

The Farallone was formerly employed in trading between Californian and Mexican ports, and was the first boat secured for the proposed new line between San Diego and Hilo.—[Ex.]

## A MIDNIGHT BLAZE.

## Three Chinese Stores on Nuananu Street Suffer from Fierce Flames.

On March 2d, just before midnight an alarm of fire was rung from the Central Tower. Mr. P. O'Sullivan turned in the alarm to the Mutual Telephone Company's office, the operator quickly communicating with the bell tower.

It started in a store on Nuananu street, just above King street, occupied by Chung Poon, a tailor. The flames spread quickly and at one time it looked as if there was to be a big fire. The fire police were quickly on the spot and their work of keeping the crowd back has never been excelled at any fire. They deserve the highest credit. The department responded with a will, and working hard it was not long before the fire was under control. Chung Poon's store is pretty well gutted. The store below, occupied by Fai Kee, a watchmaker, was damaged slightly, while the one above, in which Hop Hong carried on the tailoring business was more or less damaged. The origin of the fire at this time of writing is unknown. The Hon. W. G. Irwin, who was a spectator, said he had never seen a better conducted fire in Honolulu.

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Very respectfully yours,  
(signed) A. MOORE,  
Manager Paiahu Plantation

HELEA, Sept. 28, 1889.  
MR. JOHN DYER, Agent Rison Iron Works, Honolulu.

DEAR SIR: Please ship us one of your 30-chambered Filter Presses, 240 square feet surface, same as the one supplied us last season, which I am pleased to say has given us entire satisfaction.  
Yours truly,  
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JOHN GASP. Kahaione, S. Kona, Hawaii.  
February 12, 1891. 1302-1m.